

## Message Text

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72

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 RSC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 R

DRAFTED BY IO/LABW:RCHEATER:OF

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

S/IL:DGOOD

EA:RWALKINSHAW

LABOR:JQUACKENBUSH

----- 012530

R 231728Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, AORG, AS

SUBJECT: ILO - AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN CHAIRMSHIP OF  
GOVERNING BODY

REF: MELBOURNE 66

1. REFTTEL INDICATES GOA INTEREST IN NOMINATING ITS PER-  
MANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, AMBASSADOR HAL COOK, TO BE  
CHAIRMAN OF ILO GOVERNING BODY.

2. CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BODY HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELD  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A GOVERNMENT THAT HOLDS FULL,  
VOTING MEMBERSHIP IN GOVERNING BODY. CHAIRMAN IS NORMALLY  
ELECTED DURING THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE AND SERVES FOR ONE  
YEAR. DURING THE 1975-76 TERM, IT WILL BE ASIA'S TURN TO  
HOLD THE OFFICE, AND AUSTRALIA IS A MEMBER OF THE ILO'S  
ASIAN REGION.

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3. MANDATE OF PRESENT GOVERNING BODY EXPIRES IN JUNE 1975, AND THERE WILL BE AN ELECTION IN MID-JUNE, PRIOR TO ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, TO DETERMINE COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODY DURING 1975-78 PERIOD. A GOVERNMENT HOLDING AN ELECTIVE SEAT, AS AUSTRALIA DOES, NORMALLY, STEPS DOWN AFTER ONE TERM AND MAKES WAY FOR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FROM THE SAME GEOGRAPHIC REGION. AUSTRALIA IS CURRENTLY A FULL, VOTING MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY, AND NORMAL PRACTICE

WOULD CALL FOR GOA TO RETIRE IN JUNE IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER ASIAN MEMBER. IF THIS PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, COOK WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AT ANY TIME DURING 1975-78 PERIOD, SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT THEN BE A MEMBER OF GOVERNING BODY.

4. DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INITIATED WITH GOA, BUT IF GOA RAISES IT, YOU MAY POINT OUT ABOVE-DESCRIBED PATTERN OF PROCEDURE AND ASK WHETHER GOA PLANS TO SEEK A SECOND CONSECUTIVE TERM AS A FULL, VOTING MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND ASK IF IT HAS CONSULTED OTHER MEMBERS OF ILO ASIAN REGIONAL CAUCUS TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF CAUCUS SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTION AND FOR COOK'S CANDIDACY. IN ILO GOVERNING BODY CHAIRMANSHIP ELECTIONS, USG CUSTOMARILY SUPPORT REGIONAL CAUCUS CHOICE. KISSINGER

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